

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANJUL 01604 300852Z  
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01  
SP-02 AID-05 /055 W  
-----300908Z 029255 /12

R 291817Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3943  
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANJUL 1604

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PORG, GA  
SUBJECT: AFTERMATH GUC STRIKE

REF: A) STATE 294393, B) BANJUL 1517

1. ACCORDING TO ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, TOTAL OF 13 WORKERS WERE ARRESTED AND BOOKED ON CHARGES RELATED TO NOV. 18-20 LABOR DISTURBANCE. ONLY TWO GAMBIA WORKER'S UNION LEADERS WERE AMONG THOSE ARRESTED - MAHTAR CEESAY AND AHMADU BAH, BOTH DEPUTIES TO GWU SEC. GEN. M.E. JALLOW. CEESAY AND BAH WERE CHARGED WITH "COUNSELLING AND PROCURING WORKERS TO COMMIT AN OFFENCE" (I.E. ILLEGAL STRIKE): BOTH WERE TRIED, CONVICTED, AND FINED DALASIS 300 EACH (APPROXIMATELY DOLLARS 125).

2. OTHER 11 ARRESTEES WERE CHARGED UNDER RECENTLY PASSED AMENDMENT TO TRADE UNIONS ACT FOR FAILURE TO GIVE REQUIRED 21 DAY NOTICE OF INTENTION TO STRIKE. SIX OF THOSE ARRESTED PLEADED GUILTY AND WERE FINED DALASIS 250 EACH. FIVE OTHER CASES ARE PENDING.

3. ACTION WHICH IMMEDIATELY PRECIPITATED GUC STRIKE WAS FORCED RETIREMENT OF 9 EMPLOYEES, WITH FULL PAYMENT FRINGE  
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BENEFITS AND PENSION. FOLLOWING STRIKE ACTION 5 GUC EMPLOYEES WERE SUMMARILY SACKED, OF WHOM 4 HAVE SINCE BEEN RE-HIRED, BUT WITH LOSS OF SENIORITY.

4. AMENDMENT TO TRADE UNIONS ACT, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY PARLIAMENT NOV. 3, 1976, PROVIDES THAT "ANY STRIKE OR LOCK-OUT SHALL BE

UNLAWFUL" UNLESS WRITTEN REPORT OF TRADE DISPUTE HAS BEEN MADE TO MINISTER OF LABOR BY WORKERS OR EMPLOYERS, "AND 14 DAYS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE DATE ON WHICH DISPUTE WAS SO REPORTED AND DISPUTE HAS NOT WITHIN THAT TIME BEEN SETTLED." AMENDMENT FURTHER EXTENDS COOLING OFF PERIOD TO 21 DAYS FOR STRIKE OR LOCK-OUT IN ESSENTIAL SERVICE (DEFINED AS UTILITIES, HEALTH, CIVIL AVIATION, FUEL SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC TRANSPORT, PORT, DOCK AND FERRY SERVICES). PERSONS CONVICTED UNDER THIS STATUTE ARE LIABLE TO FINES NOT EXCEEDING DALASIS 500, OR ONE YEAR IN PRISON. FOR PERSONS ENGAGED IN ESSENTIAL SERVICE, PENALTIES ARE DOUBLED.

5. COMMENT: GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THIS STRIKE COMBINED FIRMNESS AND DISCRETION. VIOLENCE WAS AVOIDED, AND STRIKERS WERE HANDLED LENIENTLY BY COURTS. RATHER THAN BE SUBJECT TO CRITICISM FOR ITS ACTIONS BY PARTIALLY INFORMED OUTSIDERS, GOTG'S RESPONSE TO WILDCAT STRIKE EFFECTING VITAL SERVICE WOULD BETTER SERVE AS EXAMPLE OF HUMANE GOVERNMENTAL DEALING WITH DELICATE LABOR PROBLEM NOT LIKELY TO BE DUPLICATED ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA.  
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## Message Attributes

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